

EDITORIALS.

ATTACKS ON "MORMONISM."

WE notice that a few of our exchanges find space, in spite of the mass of strike news, to void a little venom against the "Mormons." The St. Louis *Globe-Democrat* is anxious, not only for vengeance against certain alleged breakers of the law, but for an assault against "Mormonism" as a religion. This is what it suggests:

"While the excitement is high it should also be remembered that no more favorable time than the present could be found for attacking and extirpating, root and branch, the entire system of Mormonism."

Those who are so terribly exercised over the Mormon question, and are so anxious for extreme measures, generally disguise their animus against the system by avowing that they have no war to wage against it, but are only anxious for the overthrow of its leaders. But the paper that parts its name in the middle is refreshingly frank. It is "Mormonism" that is to be attacked. A religious system that is to be "extirpated, root and branch." And this is to be done under the influence of popular excitement. Not calmly, deliberately, by strong reasons and a fair process, but by brute force while prejudice excites passion and reason is silenced by rage and clamor.

Is not this sage counsel from a literary Solon? By what right is "Mormonism" to be attacked with anything but argument? And who but a bigot and murderer at heart would seek to destroy by violence a system which cannot be overturned by reason? If "Mormonism" is so false and evil in its character and principles, let the learned divines and the logical editors unite in demonstrating its fallacy and its wickedness. And if they fail in this, let them close their mouths and put by their pens so far as this subject is concerned, and not expose their own folly and villainy by inciting mobocracy and fanning the fires of persecution.

But this spirit generally inspires the bigoted and the defeated theologian, and they would invoke force where words cannot prevail. We claim that "Mormonism" stands impregnable against argumentative assaults. Indeed very few arguments have ever been used against it. The would-be assailants of "Mormonism" chiefly assume for it a certain position and then proceed to overthrow it. They manufacture something absurd, call it "Mormonism," and proceed to demolish it. The first book has yet to be published, the first sermon to be preached, the first lecture to be delivered against "Mormonism," in which its doctrines and principles have been fairly stated and truthfully explained. What wonder then that the champions of orthodox sectarianism waste their breath for naught, and that "Mormonism" still flourishes and its votaries remain firm in their convictions of its truth?

No matter how absurd or anti-Christian "Mormonism" may appear to its opponents, they have no right morally, religiously or legally to seek its destruction by such means as the *Globe-Democrat* would employ. The prosecution of alleged criminals is another and entirely different matter. "Mormonism" neither teaches, countenances nor shelters crime, the affirmations of its enemies to the contrary notwithstanding. The law should be sustained. But legal prosecution does not mean religious or personal persecution. And the processes of the law should not be stimulated by sectarian animosity nor conducted under the spur of popular excitement. The cause of justice will not be subserved by rage and threatenings nor vindicated by mob violence.

We direct the attention of the editor of the *Globe-Democrat* to one principle that he seems to have forgotten in his tirade against the "Mormons." In a criminal prosecution, conviction must precede punishment. General belief is not sufficient. Even the opinion of a St. Louis editor is not conclusive evidence of the guilt of an accused person, no matter if the defendant is a "Mormon." So while that editor cries out for "punishment," he should hold himself quiet and

wait for proof, not merely suspicion or belief of guilt. He is wrong to call for the extirpation of a religious system. He is wrong to clamor for the blood of alleged criminals no matter how unpopular they may be, simply on the grounds of general belief in their wickedness.

The St. Paul *Dispatch* believes the whole "Mormon" hierarchy to be corrupt, and says that to begin with. To end with, it exclaims, "Let them be accursed!" The *Dispatch* editor has a right to believe what seems right to him, although he is rash to jump at so foolish a conclusion. But he has no right to indulge in such cursings. However, it matters nothing to the objects of his maledictions. Indeed, he is more likely to injure himself than anybody else. We simply remind him of the adage: "Curses, like chickens, generally come home to roost."

THE MOUTH OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

CAPTAIN EADS, the engineer whose plan to open an outlet to the Mississippi river has been so much canvassed, has made such satisfactory progress in his great work as to leave no question as to its ultimate triumphant success. Some of the leading civil engineers of the country threw doubt upon his plans and asserted that his attempt would result in failure. Our readers will doubtless remember the character of his plans. He proposed, by a system of jetties, built upon an unused outlet of the vast river, to create a channel which should be deepened, kept open and made practicable for the passage of ships drawing the greatest depth of water. This would add greatly to the value of New Orleans as a port, and remove the obstacles from the mouth of the Mississippi which have been so dangerous and detrimental to navigation. For two years work has now been going on at these jetties. Up to the present time the concentration of the water flowing across the sand bar at the mouth of the pass by the jetties has created a channel over two hundred feet wide and in no place less than twenty feet deep, where only about eight feet had previously existed. The concentration of the water flowing over the shoal in the river at the head of the Pass has likewise created a channel over 400 feet wide, in no portion less than 20 feet deep, and 30 feet deep in the center, where before the depth was scarcely 14 feet. Engineers, who have been opposed to Captain Eads' plan, have asserted that, while it was probable that the channel between the jetties might be deepened, the sand washed out by the current would form a bar in advance of the jetties, and the difficulties of the entrance would not be conquered. But instead of a bar being formed at this point, it is found that the accumulation of sand is effectually prevented by the Gulf current athwart the mouth of the Pass, which deepens the outer slope of the bar, and sweeps away any such portion of the discharged sediment as the river current fails to carry to great distances seaward. Captain Eads states in his report that, during the time in which a portion of the flow into the Pass was interrupted by the works at its head, and while the current consequently slackened, a temporary deposit of sediment took place in the Pass and between the jetties. The gradual restoration of the normal flow into the Pass through the new channel at its head has already begun to enlarge the Pass again, and "has, since this restored flow commenced, removed from between the jetties within the past three months over half a million cubic yards of deposit, and given through more than half the length of the jetties a much larger and deeper channel than ever previously existed, the size of which is already throughout more than 2,000 feet, 28 feet by 300 feet, or that required to entitle us to the fifth payment from the United States, while many hundred feet of it exceeds 30 feet by 350 feet."

At the head of the Passes the river has a width of over 9,000 feet, and yet is brought under complete control by Captain Eads' works, which are so designed as to allow of the increase or limit of the discharge into the South Pass if hereafter necessary with but little additional outlay.

The law of Congress which authorizes Captain Eads to do this work, grants him thirty months after the approval of the act, in which to secure a navigable depth of 20 feet through the Pass. If not accomplished in that time Congress may revoke the privileges granted to him. Under the same penalty he must secure additional depth of not less than two feet during each succeeding year thereafter, until 26 feet shall have been secured. If these conditions shall be fully complied with, the United States agrees to pay Captain Eads \$5,250,000 for constructing the works and obtaining a depth of 30 feet in the channel, and the annual sum of \$100,000 for every year that said depth of 30 feet shall be maintained. The payment of the large sum is only made at stated intervals upon the completion of the work; and Captain Eads has to perform it at his own expense, the Government only paying when it clearly appears that the stipulated depths of water are secured.

It is gratifying to read the closing words of the report of this eminent engineer:

"I may add, with absolute certainty, that this entire system of works is now so far completed that no financial difficulties can intervene to arrest the processes of nature, which are constantly operating to enlarge and perfect the desired channel through them."

COMING AROUND TO THE POINT.

THE New York *Sun* of July 27 makes the following noticeable acknowledgment—

"Unquestionably society is not as it should be. If all men were good, the general happiness would be vastly increased. Therefore, as the first step to improvement, we urge on all priests and pastors the duty of inculcating on rich and poor alike the regulation of their conduct according to the highest precepts of morals and religion. The sure way to make the world better and happier is for each man to make himself better, to deal justly, and to eschew wickedness."

It is patent to everybody that society is not in the most satisfactory condition. Indeed, it often seems to be in anything else than a condition satisfactory to a fair-minded person. To such the world frequently appears to be sadly out of joint, and in an exceedingly disordered state in many important respects. There needs no argument to prove this. Most men acknowledge it freely. But how to mend matters is not so patent to the multitude. In fact, there has been a great amount of discussion upon this point, at divers times and by divers parties, and still to the mass of mankind it is an open question, and one that they are not likely to agree upon very soon. Indeed, almost all the quarrels in the world, public and private, national and individual, are based more or less upon this important but much disputed question.

The *Sun*, however, as above quoted, has evidently an idea of the source whence all hopeful advance in the desired direction must emanate, that the first step in the way of this needed and most desirable improvement must be the regulation of individual conduct in accordance with the highest precepts of morals and religion.

This is something like what we have been contending for all the time. We have maintained, and do still maintain, that the gospel of Jesus Christ is the grand panacea for the evils that are in the world, individual and national, political and religious, temporal and spiritual, and that it is useless, sheer waste of time, to look to any other means for real and permanent relief.

This is in accordance too with the doctrines of the Bible, and is indeed the burden of the teachings of that sacred book, and of every servant of God whose testimony may be found therein. Among the very first things required of all men and women by the Gospel is repentance of sin, forsaking that which is evil, and cleaving unto the Lord with full purpose of heart to keep his holy commandments and to observe his precepts which would lead to the living of a blameless life, full of good words and good works to all the workmanship of his hands. As the *Sun* suggests, if this were the case with

men and women there would be no such evils in society as exist in the present day, but the race would be lifted up out of the miserable slough in which much of it is at the present, and exalted to a beatified condition a long way in advance of anything that the world has yet seen, or regarded as possible in this mortal life.

Lastly, we may observe again that after all discussions and reformatory attempts in this direction, comparative failure will be the result, unless such attempts are based upon Gospel principles.

CONVICTION WANTED.

THE New York *Herald*, of July 28, speaking of the arrest of General R. T. Burton, of this city, talks in this wild way of his trial—

"It will conclusively show one thing—whether it is possible to obtain a conviction of a Mormon criminal under the present jury system of the Territory. If he escapes, justice will be a mere mockery, and Congress must interfere or forever surrender Utah to Brigham Young."

This is the style in which the *Herald* prejudices Utah matters all the time. The method of judicial ratiocination adopted by that paper has the merit of being exceedingly simple, if it has nothing else to recommend it, being this—assume a man is guilty, as soon as he is charged, if not before, and no matter how or by whom the charges are trumped up; call him every bad thing you can think of; insist on his conviction and punishment; and abuse, to the lowest degree, judge, jury, lawyers, and witnesses if conviction is not obtained.

If, upon the *Herald's* system of jurisprudence, a man is to be held guilty because he is so charged by somebody, thus reversing the old law doctrine that a man should be presumed innocent until proved guilty, then what is the use of courts at all? Judge, jury, witnesses, prosecution, defence, trial, etc., are all superfluous. All that is wanted is somebody to prefer a charge against a citizen, and somebody else to execute upon the citizen the penalty provided by law for the crime so charged. That is the *Herald's* way, stripped of prolix detail. Such a method of procedure may commend itself to the *Herald* and people who adopt the *Herald's* cavalier way of treating the "Mormon" question, but that method has not yet commended itself to Congress and the country at large, nor, happily, is there any prospect of such a widespread endorsement of it at present.

It is by no means assured that the trial of Gen. Burton will conclusively show whether it is possible to convict a "Mormon" criminal under the present jury system. That is a question with which the jury, whether "Mormon" or "Gentile," have absolutely nothing to do. It cannot properly be placed before them in court, and out of court they are no jury. The duty of the jury is to render a verdict according to the law, and to the evidence presented, and they are the sole judges of the value of that evidence. The *Herald* seems to think that the sole duty of a jury in Utah is to convict when a "Mormon" is charged with crime. This is an egregiously erroneous view of the duty of a jury. It is not the duty of a jury, even in Utah, to convict, it is not the duty of a jury to acquit, except as, in the estimation of the jury, the evidence adduced before them shall warrant. At least, the evidence should clearly and undoubtedly warrant a verdict of conviction before such a verdict should be returned. In case of doubt, the benefit of the doubt, even, is the right of the person charged with crime. But the *Herald* does away with all these essential features of the established and acknowledged methods of judicial procedure, and insists that when a "Mormon" is charged with crime he must be considered a criminal and must also be convicted *volens volens*.

The *Herald* further prejudices and says, "If he escapes, justice will be a mere mockery," which is all emphatic nonsense. The *Herald* affects to believe the General guilty. The *Herald* is a long way off, and knows nothing actually of the matter. The people hereabout believe the General innocent. Many people in this vicinity, actually present at the scene on the

Weber on which the charge is based, know the General is innocent of the crime charged. But this belief pro and con, and this positive knowledge of eye-witnesses, are nothing to the court or the jury, only as the knowledge may be testified to in open court before the jury, in due course of trial, and nobody has a right to publicly prejudice the case, and urge his view to the prejudice of the trial in court. Much less has the *Herald*, which knows absolutely nothing of the matter, the right to declare the accused guilty, to abuse the jury beforehand on the contingency of a possible failure to convict, and to declare beforehand that in such case justice will be a failure. If such conduct on the part of a newspaper, and a distant newspaper, that knows nothing about the facts, is not contempt of court, in what does that offence consist? If such unbecoming conduct on the part of a public journal is not of a nature to prejudice a case against the accused, and before he is brought to trial, and thus obstruct the course and thwart the ends of justice, what conduct could be? The course of the *Herald* in this regard must be considered by all fair-minded persons as severely reprehensible and absolutely scandalous, a crying disgrace to American journalism.

But the object of all this attempt to pre-judice the case before the country is announced by the *Herald*—"If he escapes, * * * Congress must interfere." What for? To change the present jury system. How? By giving it altogether into the hands of the "Gentiles," the sworn enemies of the "Mormons." Then, thinks the *Herald*, if a "Mormon" is charged with crime, conviction will be certain. Yes, the *Herald* might add, and then courts and juries and trials will be entirely farcical, and nothing but farcical, in Utah, except when they change to the tragical. But in either case justice will have fled from the Territory.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

—The failure of the "lost cause" is still lamented in the South.

—The genuine tramp says he wants wages, not work, according to an eastern paper.

—There is a growing sentiment in the States for a strong government and a larger standing army.

—The New York *Herald* advocates free trade as the only remedy for hard times and extensive strikes in this country.

—The New York *Sun* says it is hard to work for low wages, but much harder to get neither work nor wages.

—"Boston" Corbett, who shot Booth who shot Lincoln, is sick and in destitute circumstances at Camden, Pa.

—An Illinois court decides that if a meteor falls on your land the meteor is yours, because Providence has sent it to you.

—Two men in Maryland have been shot by a man named Short. That is what the Deserets would call a Short stop and two out.

—The best kind of nutriment for forced plants, bulbs and flowering shrubs, is soft water. Put six quarts of soft to a barrel of water and apply freely.

—Australia is afflicted with a terrible drouth. Grass is exceedingly scarce and over a million sheep are said to have died in New South Wales.

—The eastern papers are so occupied with strikes, and riots, and incendiarisms that they seem to have forgotten that there is such a thing as "Mormonism." Even shrieks from the Utah shriekers are unheard.

—Opium eating is said to have been taken up extensively in the South, after the war, for the purpose of drowning sorrow. And snuff-chewing, we suppose for the purpose of "dipping" it.

—The New York *Herald* says: "Chief Joseph, of Idaho, is sleepless. That was the way with his namesake." We always thought the ancient Joseph was a dreamer. He had no objection to sleeping, but preferred reposing alone.

—Sir Walter Scott declared that "there never did, and never will, exist anything permanently noble and excellent in the character of any man which is a stranger to the exercise of resolute self-denial." That is as true as the purest gospel ever preached.